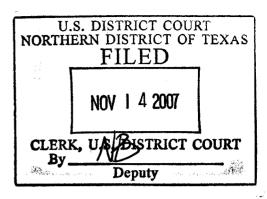
ase 3:07-cv-01895-K Document 1 Filed 11/14/07 Page 1 of 15 PageID 1

John Holman Barr
State Bar No. 01798700
George Nicholas
State Bar No. 14991400
Katherine Ruesch (Jayroe)
State Bar No. 24047330
BURT BARR & ASSOCIATES, L.L.P.
P.O. Box 223667
Dallas, Texas 75222-3667
Attorneys for Defendants



0-07011100 E - D

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT - NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS DALLAS DIVISION

16614

MASSOUD NASSERI Plaintiff	§ No
VS.	§ §
MSS TRANSPORTATION, INC.	§ §
d/b/a FREEDOM CAB, IRVING	§ NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF ACTION
HOLDINGS COMPANY, INC. d/b/a	§ UNDER 28 U.S.C. § 1446(A)
YELLOW CAB, YELLOW CHECKER	§ (FEDERAL QUESTION)
CAB COMPANY OF DALLAS/FORT	§
WORTH, INC, SULEIMAN	§
al-DAGESH, and SALAMEH al DEGHSH	§
Defendants	§

DEFENDANTS' NOTICE OF REMOVAL

TO THE CLERK OF THE ABOVE-ENTITLED COURT:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Defendants, MSS Transportation, Inc. d/b/a Freedom Cab, Irving Holdings, Inc. d/b/a Yellow Cab, Yellow Checker Cab Company of Dallas/Fort Worth, Inc., and Suleiman al-Dagesh, Salameh al-Deghsh hereby remove to this Court the state court proceeding described below.

Defendants file this notice of removal under 28 U.S.C. §1446(a).

A. Introduction

1. Plaintiff is Massoud Nasseri; Defendants are MSS Transportation, Inc. d/b/a Freedom Cab,

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P.O. BOX 223667 DALLAS, TEXAS 75222-3667 DEFENDANTS' NOTICE OF REMOVAL F:\bb\1578.11\Pleading\Federal Suit\(GFN) Defs Ntc of Removal.wpd Page 1

Case 3:07-cv-01895-K Document 1 Filed 11/14/07 Page 2 of 15 PageID 2

Irving Holdings, Inc. d/b/a Yellow Cab, Yellow Checker Cab Company of Dallas/Fort Worth, Inc.,

and Suleiman al-Dagesh, Salameh al-Deghsh.

2. On October 2, 2007, Plaintiff sued Defendants in Cause No. DC-07-11756 in the 14th

District Court of Dallas County, Texas, for breach of contract and vague and broad claims of civil

conspiracy, tortious interference and unfair competition including claims that Defendants are

"violating local and state law requirements that no company enjoy a monopoly over the taxi permits

in Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex." See Plaintiff's Original Petition.

3. Defendants were served with notice of the suit on October 4, 2007. Although this case was

not removable when originally filed, it became removable on and after November 2, 2007, because

of "other documents" that put Defendants on notice that Plaintiff sued under Federal Law. See 28

U.S.C. §1446(b); Knudsen v. Liberty Mut. Ins. Co., 435 F.3d 755, 757 (7th Cir. 2006). Plaintiff

when asked, via electronic mail from Defendants' attorney, George Nicholas, the basis for his

claims, replied through counsel "Sections 1 and 2 of the Sherman Antitrust Act, 15 U.S.C.§§1, 2."

See Exhibit A. When asked Defendant's counsel could not articulate how Defendants' alleged

violations of the "Sherman Act" did not involve a "federal question". Since Plaintiff's pleadings

were so broad and vague Defendants reasonably sought to have Plaintiff meaningfully disavow that

it was asserting claims and causes of action under the Sherman and Clayton Acts in the state court

suit. Defendants sent Plaintiff a proposed written "Stipulation" wherein Plaintiff was asked to

confirm that he was not asserting any cause of action that arose under any Federal Antitrust Act

including the Sherman Act and the Clayton Act. See Exhibit B. Plaintiff refused and continues to

refuse to sign or enter the Stipulation. Defendants file this notice of removal within 30 days of

receipt of the electronic mail notice and Plaintiff's failure and refusal to disavow that it is asserting

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claims under the Federal Antitrust Act including the Sherman Act and the Clayton Act. See Knudsen at 757.

B. Basis for Removal

- 4. Removal is proper because
- (A Plaintiff's suit involves a federal question. 28 U.S.C. §§1331, 1441(b); *Grable & Sons Metal Prods., Inc. v. Darue Eng'g & Mfg.*, 545 U.S. 308, 312, 125 S. Ct. 2363, 2366 (2005); *Long v. Bando Mfg. of Am., Inc.*, 201 F.3d 754, 757-58 (6th Cir. 2000); *Peters v. Union Pac. R.R.*, 80 F.3d 257, 260 (8th Cir. 1996). Specifically, Plaintiff's claim arises under the Sherman Antitrust Act, 15 U.S.C. §§1,2. Plaintiff makes various allegations in his Original Petition that Defendants have monopoly over the taxi permits in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex; Defendants have violated a series of laws to "annihilate" any competition in the DFW Metroplex; and Defendants have engaged in anticompetitive acts and unfair business practices which has resulted in an unfair competitive advantage for Defendants. Plaintiff additionally stated to Defendants via email that the basis of these claims were brought under "Sections 1 and 2 of the Sherman Antitrust Act." *See Exhibit A.*
- 5. All other defendants who have been served with summons consent to the removal of this case to federal court. *Balazik v. County of Dauphin*, 44 F.3d 209, 213 (3d Cir. 1995); *see* 28 U.S.C. §1446(a)
- 6. All pleadings, process, orders, and other filings in the state court action are attached to this notice as required by 28 U.S.C. §1446(a).
- 7. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. §1441(a) because the state court where the action has been pending is located in this district.

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8. Defendants will promptly file a copy of this notice of removal with the clerk of the state court where the action has been pending.

C. Jury Demand

9. Defendants did demand a jury in the state court action.

D. Conclusion

10. On October 4, 2007 Defendants received notice that Plaintiff filed suit against them based on various claims against Defendants. In the Original Petition Plaintiff alleged that Defendants violated a state or local law as Defendants owned more that 50% of the taxi permits in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex and thereby had a monopoly on the taxi permits. When asked to cite to the underlying law providing the basis for his claims against Defendants; Plaintiff stated to Defendants that his claims were based on 15 U.S.C. §§ 1,2. For these reasons, Defendants ask the court to remove the action to the United States District Court - Northern District of Texas.

Respectfully submitted,

BURT BARR/& ASSOCIATES, L.L.P.

JOHN HOLMAN BARR

State Bar No. 01798700

GEORGE NICHOLAS

State Bar No. 14991400 \

KATHERINE RUESCH (JAYROE)

State Bar No. 24047330

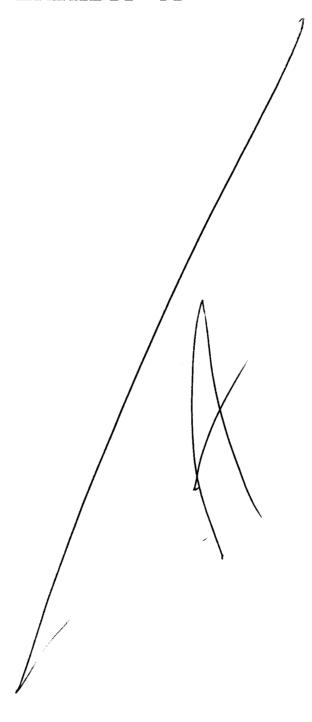
P.O. Box 223667

Dallas, Texas 75222-3667

(214) 943-0012

(214) 943-0048 Fax

EXHIBIT "A"



George Nicholas

From:

George Nicholas

Sent:

Friday, November 02, 2007 3:25 PM

To:

'brianlauten@lautenfirm.com'

Subject:

Re: Nasseri v. MSS - Allegation of local 50% taxi permits rule or ordinance

Thanks - I will take that to mean that there is no city ordinance stating a 50 percent rule but you think there are violations of federal antitrust laws. Barr is out of town but I will forward your message to him and let you know when I here from him. -----

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Device

----Original Message----

From: Brian P. Lauten <bri> sprianlauten@lautenfirm.com>

To: George Nicholas <qnicholas@bbarr.com>

Sent: Fri Nov 02 14:27:29 2007

Subject: RE: Nasseri v. MSS - Allegation of local 50% taxi permits rule or ordinance

Sections 1 and 2, Sherman Anti-Trust Act 15 U.S.C. §§ 1, 2, but please be advised that we are not pleading or invoking any federal question. As a professional courtesy, I want to take you and John Barr to lunch (preferably before we brief some of the Donald Hill issues and before I discuss this matter with the media). Let me know what your calendar looks like.

Brian P. Lauten

The Lauten Firm, P.C.

2626 Cole Avenue, Suite 850

Dallas, Texas 75204

214-720-0022 telephone

214-720-0024 facsimile

brianlauten@lautenfirm.com

www.lautenfirm.com

Admitted in Texas, Montana, & Wyoming

----Original Message----

From: George Nicholas [mailto:gnicholas@bbarr.com]

Sent: Friday, November 02, 2007 1:46 PM

To: Brian P. Lauten (E-mail)

Subject: [SPAM 13] Nasseri v. MSS - Allegation of local 50% taxi permits rule or ordinance

You state in Paragraph 14 of Plaintiff's Original Petition: "Yellow Cab cannot acquire MSS because the City of Dallas will not allow any company to own more than 50% of the taxi permits in Dallas, Texas". I have reviewed Chapter 45 "Taxicabs" of The Dallas City Code and I cannot find a "no more than 50% of taxi permits" section or rule anywhere. Defendants don't believe that there is such a City of Dallas rule, regulation or If we are wrong about the matter will you please point me to the rule, regulation or ordinance that you are referring to and where it might be located so I can review it. On the other hand, I recall meeting with you prior to the filing of the suit and this same issue about the alleged 50% rule came up and you could not cite us to a City of Dallas rule, regulation or ordinance. If this is just a matter of Plaintiff asserting a rule that does not exist then we respectfully ask that it be removed from Plaintiff's operative pleading.

George F. Nicholas

Burt Barr & Associates, L.L.P.

203 East Colorado Blvd.

Dallas, Texas 75203

(214) 943-0012 phone

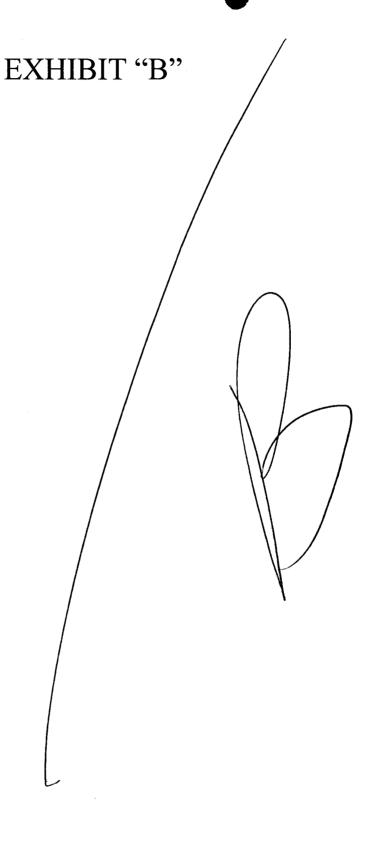
(214) 943-0048

qnicholas@bbarr.com

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George Nicholas

From:

George Nicholas

Sent:

Tuesday, November 06, 2007 1:05 PM

To:

Brian P. Lauten (E-mail)

Cc:

Forest Nelson: John Barr: Katherine Ruesch

Subject:

Requested Stipulation Disavowing Federal Antitrust Claims

Brian:

On behalf of the Plaintiff, Massoud Nasseri, you have filed an extremely broad petition that by our reading seeks to assert federal antitrust claims. Plaintiff claims that: "Yellow Cab has systemically violated a series of laws in order to annihilate any meaningful competition for consumers living and visiting DFW." Plaintiff also claims that: "Yellow Cab is also operating, directing and controlling Jet Taxi, U.S. Cab, Eagle Cab, and several other companies so that it can monopolize the taxi services in DFW." You then incorporate these broad claims of monopoly and anti-competitive acts into Plaintiff's general counts for unfair competition, civil conspiracy and tortious interference.

Since you have not stated violations of any particular law, statute or ordinance I asked you which law that Defendants are alleged to have violated. You answered the "Sherman Act" but that you were not asserting a federal question. I don't understand your qualification since alleged violations of the Sherman Act are federal questions. We understand that you would rather be in state court than federal court, but if Plaintiff continues to allege these broad antitrust claims then Defendants may remove this case to federal court. If the Plaintiff wants to avoid the removal then we ask that Plaintiff enter into the attached stipulation that disavows any present or future claim in this lawsuit under a federal law or statute including federal antitrust laws the Sherman Act and/or Clayton Act.

This request for stipulation to clarify Plaintiff's claims should not be construed as a waiver of our demand that Plaintiff dismiss all claims and parties from this lawsuit that are not related to the contractual disputes between MSS Transportation, Inc. and Plaintiff Nasseri-G.P.D.A., Inc. since Defendants assert that these claims are groundless in law and fact and made for purposes of harrassment.



STIPULATION.wpd

George F. Nicholas Burt Barr & Associates, L.L.P. 203 East Colorado Blvd. Dallas, Texas 75203 (214) 943-0012 phone (214) 943-0048 fax gnicholas@bbarr.com

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****CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE****

Case 3:07-cv-01895-K Document 1 Filed 11/14/07 Page 10 of 15 Page 10 10

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CAUSE NO. 07-11756

MASSOUD NASSERI	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT
	§	
Plaintiff,	§	
	§	
Vs.	§	DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS
	§	
MSS TRANSPORTATION, INC.	§	
d/b/a FREEDOM CAB, IRVING	§	
HOLDINGS COMPANY, INC. d/b/a	§	
YELLOW CAB, YELLOW CHECKER	§	
CAB COMPANY OF DALLAS/ FORT	§	
WORTH, INC., SULEIMAN	§	
al-DAGESH and SALEMAH al-DEGHSH	§	
	§	
Defendants,	§	14 th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

AGREED STIPULATION

COMES NOW JOINTLY, PLAINTIFF, MASSOUD NASSERI ("Plaintiff") AND DEFENDANTS MSS TRANSPORTATION, INC. d/b/a FREEDOM CAB, IRVING HOLDINGS COMPANY, INC. d/b/a YELLOW CAB, YELLOW CHECKER CAB COMPANY OF DALLAS/FORT WORTH, INC. SULEIMAN al-DAGESH and SALEMAH al-DEGHSH ("Defendants") and file this stipulation concerning the claims and causes of action asserted by Plaintiff in the above referenced suit:

Plaintiff hereby stipulates that Plaintiff is not pleading or asserting in the above referenced lawsuit, and shall not plead or assert in the future in this lawsuit, any claims or causes of action under any federal law or statute including Federal Antitrust Statutes and Laws in the United States Code including, without limitation, the Sherman Antitrust Act and the Clayton Act.

LAW OFFICES OF

BURT BARR & ASSOCIATES, L.L.P.

P.O. BOX 223667

DALLAS, TEXAS 75222-3667

AGREED STIPULATION

Respectfully submitted,

BURT BARR & ASSOCIATES, L.L.P.

By:____

JOHN HOLMAN BARR State Bar No. 01798700 GEORGE NICHOLAS State Bar No. 14991400 P.O. Box 223667 Dallas, Texas 75222-3667 (214) 943-0012 (214) 943-0048 Fax

Agreed as to form and content:

Brian Lauten
The Lauten Firm, P.C.
2626 Cole Avenue, Suite 850
Dallas, Texas 75204
Attorney for Plaintiff

George Nicholas
Burt Barr and Associates, LLP
203 East Colorado Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75222
Attorney for Defendants

LAW OFFICES OF BURT BARR & ASSOCIATES, L.L.P.

P.O. BOX 223667 DALLAS, TEXAS 75222-3667 AGREED STIPULATION

SJS 44 (Rev. 3/99) Case	e 3:07-cv-01895-l	L Document,	A FIR	11/14/07	Page 13 of 15 Pa	igeID 13
	A				ling and service of pleading the United States in Septer ON THE REVERSE OF T	gs or other papers as required mber 1974, is required for the THE FORM.)
I. (a) PLANTIFFS Massoud Nasser	-07CV1	895-]	B	Yellow Cab, Yello	TS ion, Inc. d/b/a Freedom Cab, I ow Checker Cab Company of sh and Salameh al-Dagesh	
(b) County of Residence				County of Residen	ce of First Listed Defendant	Dallas
(EX	CEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF	CASES)			(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASE	,
		RECEN	/ED		D CONDEMNATION CASES, U INVOLVED.	SE THE LOCATION OF THE
(c) Attorney's (Firm Nam Brian P. Lauten and A The Lauten Firm 2626 Cole Avenue, S Dallas, Texas 75204 (214)720-0022		1 1	2007	Burt Barr and Ass PO. Box. 223667 Dallas. Texas 752	r, George Nicholas, and Katho sociates, LLP	erine Ruesch
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X"	MORTHERN DISTR	AT OF HE	ZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff
□ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff □ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	x 3 Federal Question (U.S. Governm)	ent Not a Party)	(For D Citizer	iversity Cases Only) PTF	DEF 1	and One Box for Defendant) PTF Principal Place
W. MATURE OF COM	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,			or Subject of a ign Country	3 □ 3 Foreign Nation	□ 6;;;;;□ 6
IV. NATURE OF SUIT CONTRACT	T	ne Box Only) RTS	FORE	EITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
□ 110 Insurance □ 120 Marine □ 130 Miller Act □ 140 Negotiable Instrument □ 150 Recovery of Overpayment ∠ Enforcement of Judgment □ 151 Medicare Act □ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) □ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits □ 160 Stockholders' Suits □ 190 Other Contract □ 195 Contract Product Liability	PERSONAL INJURY 310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle 355 Motor Vehicle	PERSONAL INJUR Beginston Be	Y 610 620 620 620 631 640 64	O Agriculture O Other Food & Drug Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC O Liquor Laws O R.R. & Truck O Airline Regs. O Occupational Safety/Health O Other LABOR O Fair Labor Standards Act	□#22 Appeal 28 USC 158 □#23 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS □#20 Copyrights □#30 Patent □#40 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY □#661 HIA (1395ff) □#62 Black Lung (923)	□ 400 State Reapportionment x 410 Antitrust □ 430 Banks and Banking □ 450 Commerce/ICC Rates/etc. □ 460 Deportation □ 470 Racketeer Influenced and
REAL PROPERTY 210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property	☐ 441 Voting ☐ 442 Employment ☐ 443 Housing/ Accommodations ☐ 444 Welfare ☐ 440 Other Civil Rights	PRISONER PETITIO 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence Habeas Corpus: 530 General 535 Death Penalty 540 Mandamus & Oth 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition	730 740 790	D Labor/Mgmt Reporting & Disclosure Act D Railway Labor Act D Other Labor Litigation Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	□R64 SSID Title XVI □R65 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS □R70 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) □R71 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	□ 894 Energy Allocation Act □ 895 Freedom of Information Act □ 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice □ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes □ 890 Other Statutory Actions
V. ORIGIN (PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY) Transferred from another district (specify) Appeal to District Judge from Industrict (specify) Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment Appeal to District (specify) Appeal to District Judge from Industrict (specify) Appeal to District Industrict (specify)						
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION 15 U.S.C §§ 1,2. Plaintiffs filed action are based upon	Do not cite jurisdictionation against Defendants in state of	te under which you are filial statutes unless diversity. court alleging various cause and ants have violated Sections.) es of action inc	cluding breach of contract	t, civil conspiracy, unfair competiti uit.	ion, and tortious interference.
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	☐ CHECK IF THIS UNDER F.R.C.P.	IS A CLASS ACTION	N DEM	IAND \$	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND:	if demanded in complaint: x Yes □ No
VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY	instructions);	JUDGE			DOCKET NUMBER	3
DATE //-/4-2007 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF PACORD GENTLE NICHOLAS						
FOR OFFICE USÉ ONLY RECEIPT #	AMOUN	APPLYING IFP	/	JUDGE		
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ORIGINAL

2.

United States District Court Northern District of Texas

Supplemental Civil Cover Sheet For Cases Removed From State Court

This form must be attached to the Civil Cover Sheet at the time the case is filed in the U.S. District Clerk's Office. Additional sheets may be used as necessary.

1. State Court Information:

3-07CV1895-B

Please identify the court from which the case is being removed and specify the number assigned to the case in that court.

Court
14th Judicial District Court
Dallas County, Texas

Style of the Case:

NOV | 4 2007

Please include all Plaintiff (SLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT enor(s), Counterclaimant(s), Crossclaimant(s) and Third Party Claimant(s) still remaining in the case and indicate their party type. Also, please list the attorney(s) of record for each party named and include their bar number, firm name, correct mailing address, and phone number (including area code.)

Party and Party Type

Massoud Nasseri Plaintiff

MSS Transportation, Inc. d/b/a Freedom Cab, Irving Holdings, Inc. d/b/a Yellow Cab, Yellow Checker Cab of Dallas/ Fort Worth, Suleiman al-Dagesh, and Salameh al-Dagesh

Defendants

Attorney(s)

Brian P. Lauten
Texas Bar No. 24031603
Amy Bryant Lauten
Texas Bar No. 24011148
The Lauten Firm
2626 Cole Avenue, Suite 850
Dallas, Texas 75204
(214)720-0022

John Holman Bar
Texas Bar No.
George Nicholas
Texas Bar No.
Katherine Ruesch (Jayroe)
Texas Bar No.
Burt Barr. & Associates, LLP
P.O. Box 223667
Dallas, Texas 75222-3667
(214)943-0012

3. Jury Demand:

Was a Jury Demand made in State Court?

X Yes

□ No

	Case 3:07-cv-01895-K Document 1 Filed If "Yes," by which party and on what			
	<u>Defendants</u> Party	10/25/2007 Date		
4.	Answer:			
	Was an Answer made in State Court?	X Yes		
	If "Yes," by which party and on what	date?		
	<u>Defendants</u> Party	10/25/2007 Date		
5.	Unserved Parties:			
	The following parties have not been served a	at the time this case was removed:		
	Party GDPA, Inc. d/b/a King Cab.	Reason(s) for No Service		
6. Nonsuited, Dismissed or Terminated Parties:				
	Please indicate any changes from the style on change:	the State Court papers and the reason for that		
	Party None at this time.	Reason		
7.	Claims of the Parties:			
The filing party submits the following summary of the remaining litigation:		ry of the remaining claims of each party in this		
	<u>Party</u>	Claim(s)		
	Plaintiff	Defendants engaged in anticompetitive practices of Defendants that resulted in Defendants violating various laws including the Sherman Antitrust Act 15 U.S.C. §§1,2. Plaintiff also alleges breach of contract, civil conspiracy, tortious interference, and unfair competition actions against Defendants		
	Defendants	Defendants alleges various causes of action against Plaintiff including breach of contract, statutory and common law fraud, and breached of fiduciary duty.		